

greatness and nobility of the character of this Pope. They acknowledge that he towers above his contemporaries and above their immediate predecessors and followers. At the time of the invasion of the Lombards, in Italy, he concluded an honorable treaty with the Barbarians. He made just efforts to introduce pure christianity among the conquerors; he aided and directed THEODILINDA, wife of Agihelf, the Lombard duke of Turin, in her zeal for the true faith; labored for the abolition of slavery, and the extinction of paganism in Italy, founded many monasteries; greatly encouraged the order of St. Benedict; and caused strict discipline and reformation of abuses to be observed among the clergy. Before Gregory the Great was elected Pope, he was walking one day in the forum at Rome, and saw some boys standing in the market to be sold for slaves. They were very fair, with large blue eyes, and long, curling, yellow hair. He asked who they were, and was told they were Angels. "Justly are they so named," said he, "for their face is angelic, and they ought to be co-heirs with the Angels in heaven. And how is their province named?" The boys answered, "Deira." which was the name of Northumberland. "Deira Dei," (from the wrath of God,) he replied; "they must indeed be delivered from His wrath, and called to His mercy. What is the name of the king of their country?" The boys answered, "Ælla." "Then," said Gregory, "Alleluia, in praise of God, shall be surely hymned in that portion of the earth.

When raised to the Popedom, St. Gregory remembered the Saxon boys; and he sent Augustine, and several others, as missionaries to England. They landed in the city of Thanet, in Kent, in 596, and asked leave to preach before King Ethelbert; promising him, as a reward, a lasting kingdom, whose joys should never decay. Ethelbert himself, influenced by the persuasions of his wife Bertha, a christian princess, embraced the faith, and ten thousand of his subjects followed his example; and by degrees other